National newspapers warning the public at large not to fall prey to these unscrupulous elements.

Role of NGOs in National Literacy Mission

997. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Literacy Mission recognizes the potential of NGOs in furthering its programmes;

(b) if so, the reasons for treating NGOs as new organisation every year though they are serving for severa years; and

(c) the guidelines for recognization of NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Individual projects are treated as new but those NGOs which have gained experience by doing projects previously, are given due benefits of their experience.

(c) Under the "Scheme of NLM support to NGOs in the field of Adult Education" NGOs are provided 100% financial assistance for activities related to adult literacy. Registered Voluntary Societies, Public Trusts and Non-profit making Companies in existence for 3 years or more are eligible for assistance under the Scheme.

SC Directive about Sexual Harassment of Women

† 998. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court directive to prevent sexual harassment of women at work place is being fully complied with;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) As per preliminary assessment made by the National Commission for Women (NCW), some offices, organisations etc. are yet to constitute the complaints committee. Further, some of the complaints committees do not have 50% representation of women and are not headed by a women. Some of them do not have third part (NGO) representation. They have also found that the members of complaints committees are not familiar with procedures etc.

The Government has taken a number of initiatives to give effect to the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court, which have the force of law under Article 141 of the Constitution of India. These include:

The Government have requested all the Central Ministries/ Departments, Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations, Universities/Institutions, Central Board of Secondary Education, All India Council of Technical Education to constitute complaints committees and ensure that the guidelines are implemented.

A Central Committee headed by Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development has been constiutcd in the Department of Women and Child Development to ensure that the complaints committees are constituted and the guidelines arc implemented by all concerned.

Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules have been amended to . include sexual harassment as a prohibited conduct.

Amendments have been made to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 so that sexual harassment of women at work place in the private sector could constitute an offence for which a workman is liable for disciplinary action.